

## Team Charleston finishes the year at full speed with tours, visits and awards

By Col. James Norris  
437 AW vice commander

On behalf of General Bishop, I'd like to thank all the folks involved in the visit by key congressional staffers last Friday. The staffers, accompanied by the vice commander of the Air Mobility Command, Lt. Gen. Walter Hogle, viewed air refueling and operational demonstrations of the C-17, landed at North Field, and then proceeded to Charleston where they had lunch with key wing staff personnel and received a wing mission brief. The visit went like clockwork, and because of Team Charleston's super effort these staffers went back to Washington with a better grasp of the mobility business and Charleston Air Force Base's mobility mission.

We were also glad to host retired Marine Maj. Gen. John Grinalds, president of the Citadel, their football coach Mr. Don Powers, and Col. Frank Shealy, commander of the Citadel's Air Force ROTC detachment, Monday morning. We got to show them through the C-17, and then gave them the opportunity to fly the aircraft simulator. They were most impressed with the aircraft as well as the flyers and maintainers. My thanks to all for making this a great visit.

I was pleased to receive the announcement that our Military Equal Opportunity Office, Civilian Personnel Flight, and the Family Support Center's Tech. Sgt. Ken Fisher won Air Mobility Command mission support awards for 1999. My congratulations to all—well deserved!

It's a busy time of the year. But as the holidays approach it looks like the world situation is going to allow for a relaxed holiday period for many of us. I challenge all personnel to take maximum advantage of this to be with family and friends; and to do it smartly...don't let a DUI incident mar the holidays.

We're rapidly approaching the end of the millennium and the event (or non-event) many have been waiting for: Y2K. While many of us are celebrating New Year's Eve, a core cell of wing leadership will be at the command post ready to respond to any Y2K glitches that may arise. I'd like to give a special thanks to our Director of Special Staff, Lt. Col. Craig Armstrong, who has been leading our Y2K effort for nearly a year.

General Bishop is off on leave this week with his family traveling home to Rhode Island. I wish the Bishop family and all of you a very merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

## Air Force leaders send holiday greetings

By F. Whitten Peters and Gen. Michael E. Ryan  
*Secretary of the Air Force and Air Force chief of staff*

Each year during the holiday season, we gather with friends and family to give thanks for the blessings of the past year and to establish resolutions for the future. This particular season is unique because we are about to leave a spectacular 20th century behind and move with great optimism into the next millennium.

You should take great pride in the knowledge that as we close this century our nation has a pervasive and growing appreciation for the importance and potential of aerospace power. Your victory in Kosovo, a major theater air war, was a magnificent display of teamwork, professionalism, and leadership made possible by the total Air Force team — active duty, Reserve, Air Guard and civilians. You moved people and equipment with

By Chief Master Sgt. Jim Finch  
*Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force*

1999 has been a great year for our Air Force. We conducted successful air campaigns both in Kosovo and throughout Southwest Asia. We provided much needed humanitarian assistance around the world, and we made great strides to becoming much more expeditionary in the way we do business.

Additionally, the pay and compensation package approved for the upcoming year is the best we have seen in some time. However, without your tremendous

dedication and service, and that of your families and loved ones, none of these successes and countless others would have been possible.

I hope this holiday season will allow you to spend some time with your family and friends. If you are at a deployed location, please know you are in our thoughts and prayers, and we wish you a safe return home. Thanks for everything you do, each day of the year. I am proud to serve with you and wish you continued success as we usher in the new millennium.

Happy holidays.

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Happy holidays.

## Action Line

The Commander's Action line is your direct link to me. It's your opportunity to make Charleston Air Force Base a better place to live, work and play.

First give the appropriate base agency a chance to solve the problem, but if you don't get a satisfactory answer, call me at **963-5581** or send an e-mail to [action@charleston.af.mil](mailto:action@charleston.af.mil)



Callers are encouraged to leave their name and phone number so we can provide a personal reply. Remember the easiest way to resolve problems is to call the agency responsible directly or to use your chain of command.

**I want to express my concern regarding the delay in heating repairs at the Child Development Center by the 437th Civil Engineer .**

**The infant room has been without heat for the past three days and during this time, the weather has been very cold. The staff at the CDC has been wonderful in trying to keep the infants comfortable by relocating them to a pre-toddler room.**

**Unfortunately, since they are now sharing this room with the pre-toddler class, this makes for very crowded conditions. Since a change in environment and situation would be stressful on an adult, I'm sure the children feel this twofold. I can't speak for the other children, but I can see how this change has affected my son. He isn't eating well, playing normally or napping in the pre-toddler room. Because of this, his sleeping patterns have changed at home. Consequently, this affects our schedule too.**

**I know the staff at the CDC is trying their best in this situation, and I do not fault them. I would just like to know why it's taking CE so long to repair the heating unit? I would think that the comfort of children would be a priority on Base.**

Your concern for the comfort and safety of our children in the CDC is shared by all of us. As you have noticed, we encountered a major problem in the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system.

In order not to interrupt service, Civil Engineers have been working diligently during the days, nights and weekends to correct the situation. A short-term fix has been implemented so you should see improvement now.

A major project will be needed to provide a permanent repair; this project is currently being developed. In the meantime, this short-term fix will allow us to keep the facility open and keep our children safe and warm. Thank you for your continued inputs and support. If you have further questions, contact Nancy Corbin at 963-4314.

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